



Sacred Heart Parish Mildura

257—261 Eleventh Street Mildura

Parish Office: 5021 2872 Fax: 5023 0337

Presbytery: 5022 9959

P.O. Box 10037 Mildura, Vic 3502

parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Sacred Heart Parish | Mildura

Fr. Michael McKinnon PP

Fr Damian Styles

Parish Secretary: Carmel Russo

Office Hours: Tues—Fri 9am—4pm

**Our Lady of Lourdes
Werrimull**

**St. Francis Xavier
Elms Street, Irymple**

**3rd Sunday of Advent / Year A -
10th & 11th December 2016**

Weekend Mass Times

Sat: 6:00 pm

Sun: 9:00 am, 5:00 pm

Irymple: 8:30 am

Werrimull 11:00 am (last Sunday of each month)

Weekday Masses

If there is a Funeral Mass on Wed, Thurs, the advertised Mass will be cancelled.

Tues: 7:00 pm Wed: 9:10 am

Thurs: 9:30 am Fri: 5:40 pm

Sat: 9:30 am



Weekly Prayer Opportunities

Rosary: Monday 5:00pm

Prayer of the Church: Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri. 8:40 am

Christian Meditation: Sat 11:30 am Parish Prayer Room

Charismatic Prayer Group: Tues 7:30pm in Church

Devotion Prayer and Exposition: Fri 3:00pm

Reconciliation: Saturday 10:00am

RECENT DEATH: Eugenio Morello, Alicia (Alice) Novak, Brian Horan (Melbourne brother-in-law of Margaret Sheahan)

ANNIVERSARIES:

Saturday 6pm: Vincenzo Monteleone, Caterina Monteleone, Francesco Monteleone

(Only members of the deceased's immediate family are permitted to arrange anniversary Masses.)



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

If you want a sick person prayed for, ask for their permission. Names will be included for the duration of one month after which family or friends can request more time.

Don Lewis, Moataane Vatuvei, Brian Ramsay, Graeme Lewis, Joan Appleby, Ron Morello, Monica Crimmins, Daniel Ralli, Dan Rodan, John Devilee, Ethan Neyland, Georgie Manning, Dorothy Norris, Eileen Flanner, Fr Denis Dennehy, Eli Madden-Andrews, Kel Townsend, Vince Ali-castro, Judy Hunt, Hailey Crossan, Teresa Panuccio, Geraldine Brunner, Siliako Lolesio

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The third Sunday of Advent used to be called *Gaudete* (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent



Hope in the King

Matthew 11:2-11

is no longer celebrated as a penitential period, but rather as a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy: it is certainly present in the first reading: "the desert shall rejoice and bloom ..." (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10).

Today's gospel passage is full of questions. First John sends his disciples to Jesus with a question: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another? Jesus responds by directing them to the evidence: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." He adds a comment about those who take no offence at him: they are blessed. He then turns to the crowds with a series of rhetorical questions about their motivation for going out to John in the desert. His words to the crowds conclude with an identification of John as God's prophet and messenger, his own precursor. He pays an extraordinary tribute to John, but leaves the reader puzzling about the final statement: the least in the kingdom is greater than John.

John's imprisonment is a sobering reminder of what can happen to those who are faithful to their mission. As Matthew's Jesus will attest, John is no reed shaken by the wind. This could well be a subtle reference to Herod Antipas' choice of the reed as a symbol on the coins commemorating the founding of Tiberias. Herod has arrested and imprisoned John and later will have him put to death on specious grounds. John is not a fickle reed like Herod, but steadfast and strong.

The reader knows that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah or Anointed of God. John is checking it out. He clearly has contact with his disciples whom he sends to Jesus with the question about his identity. Is Advent over or not? The answer to John's question is to be found in what they hear and see. The restorative and healing activity of Jesus is realising the Messianic dream of the prophet Isaiah (first reading). In a sense, Advent never ends: the women and children brought into our own cities as sex slaves can attest to this, as can those who remain in the limbo of Nauru and Manus Island. We might well pray: "Strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees" in the face of such challenges.

Veronica Lawson rsm

**ADVANCE NOTICE
PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR
27TH DECEMBER — 30TH DECEMBER**

SACRAMENTAL LIFE & LITURGY



BAPTISM

We welcome into our Parish Community, Izabella Camin, Francesco Cavallo, Tabitha Iogha, & Isla Doherty whose Baptism occurs this weekend.



RCIA—The Holy Trinity

Will be held on Thursday 15th December, 7pm in the Hillman Room.

FIRST EUCHARIST 2017

All information pertaining to preparation for the reception of First Eucharist in 2017 is now available at the Parish Office. Parents of our children in Catholic Schools will receive information from School during the coming weeks also.



RECONCILIATION Friday 17th March
FIRST EUCHARIST Weekend 17th & 18th June

Please make a note of these dates now.



COMMUNAL CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER at 6:30pm

Let us prepare to celebrate the gift of Christ's Peace at Christmas by acknowledging our need for healing and forgiveness.

NATIVITY PLAY CHRISTMAS EVE 2016

All children are invited to attend and be part of our traditional Nativity Play on Christmas Eve at 6:00pm. The first practice session will commence on Friday 16th December at 4pm in the Sacred Heart Church and the dress rehearsal on Wednesday 21st December at 4pm in the Sacred Heart Church. "All participating children to meet inside the front of Church at 5.45pm Christmas Eve." Contact Lisa Cirillo 0408337297.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES. ROSTER SHEETS AT THE BACK OF CHURCH.

MILDURA CHRISTMAS MASSES 2016

CHRISTMAS EVE	CHRISTMAS DAY
6:00pm Mildura	9:00am Mildura
8:00pm Mildura	
12 Midnight Mildura	

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES FOR THE REGION
PLEASE SEE NOTICES ON EACH CHURCH
ENTRANCE**



COMMUNITY LIFE & OUTREACH

PRINCES COURT AGED CARE MASS

Will be held on Tuesday 13th December at 10am. All welcome.

OASIS AGED CARE MASS

Will be Held on Tuesday 13th December at 10.30am. All welcome.

REGIS ONTARIO AGED CARE MASS

Will be held on Thursday 15th December at 2pm. All welcome.



A farewell cuppa for Fr Damian will be held after the 9am Mass on Sunday 18th December. A plate to share would be greatly appreciated. Any donations towards a farewell gift can be left with Carmel at the Parish Office. Fr Damian will be leaving Mildura in early January where he will be posted to Kapooka in Wagga Wagga.

THE GIVING TREE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The St Vincent de Paul Society will appreciate toys being left at the Giving Tree at the back of the Church for children up to 12 years to the value of \$10.00. Sunday 11th December will be the final date for this appeal. Many thanks.



Church Life Survey during Masses this weekend **10th & 11th of December**. During this weekend masses, participants will be asked to fill out the survey. To facilitate this process, there will be no homily during these masses!

St Lucy was a young woman from a wealthy Sicilian family who lived during the early fourth century. It is believed that her mother arranged for her to be married, but Lucy refused as she wanted to devote her life to serving Christ. She offered prayers at the tomb of St Agatha and her mother's illness was miraculously cured. She was eventually martyred during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian, but even in the face of death she showed great courage and faith in God. The name Lucy means 'light' and St Lucy is called upon as the patron saint of the blind.



PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections

1st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$1151.65
2nd Collection (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$3170.50
Loose Plate	\$ 406.70

ADVANCE NOTICE

**FROM 3RD JANUARY TO 13TH JANUARY 2017
THE PARISH OFFICE HOURS WILL BE FROM
9AM—12.30PM—ONLY**

**FOR AFTER HOURS
All calls & enquiries to 5022 9959**

**RETURN TO NORMAL OFFICE HOURS FROM
TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY-2017**



MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS

We thank Fr. Andrew Hayes, Fiona Tonkin and Vin Dillon for the beautiful display of Christmas Crib and Nativity pieces on exhibition at the back of the Church and in the Monaghan Centre. The display invites us to consider our cultural diversity as a Church, and to reflect on how this diversity is so wonderfully unified in the person of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word of God.

This delightful presentation bids us focus on the central meaning of Christmas amidst the demanding pressure of gift seeking and end of year parties which so often lead to frenzied buying as well as headaches.



ALL THE WAY TO MASS IS MASS

Brian Doyle, Eureka Street November 2016

Twice a week my lovely bride arises early, long before I do, and she and the house wolf walk down the hill to Mass.

All the way to Mass *is* Mass, says my wife mysteriously, but I know what she means — walking along the wooded shore of the lake, through the halls of ash and maple trees, past the yearning sentinels of the cedars and firs; under the osprey nest on the third-base line of the baseball field; past the blackberry bushes and the burbling kindergarten and the redolent bakery and the cheerful bank tellers who wave, and past the police station where sometimes one of the officers kneels down to scratch the wolf's ears, and finally to the church named for a mysterious gracious Jewish woman — is such a walk not a celebration of miracle, a witnessing of grace, a reminder that the quotidian is deeply holy in every detail did we only attend closely enough to see His mark? And when they arrive at the church on the hill, the church where my wife and I were married many years ago, she and the house wolf slip up the back stairs, and she affixes him to the railing at the top of the stairs, next to the door now propped open with a brick because he ate the rubber doorstep last year, and from this position he can hear the Mass but not be seen, because in my wife's experience the house wolf is a magnet for kids and dog people who admire his wolfish carriage and deer-ears, and she does not want anything to distract from the Massness of the Mass, because the Mass is a quiet miracle available all day every day everywhere in the world, except for some places where it is forbidden by law, and people who gather for Mass can be tortured and imprisoned for believing that the Mass and the faith behind it are bigger and truer and wilder than any state or nation or dictator for life could ever be.

Tortured and imprisoned and murdered. We forget that people are tortured and imprisoned and murdered for going to Mass, that priests are tortured and imprisoned and murdered for celebrating Mass, that priests have been shot dead during Mass for saying Mass. There was only one Oscar Romero but there are many Oscar Romeros. Oscar Romero is dead but he is alive in inexplicable ways. Isn't that exactly what the Mass is about?

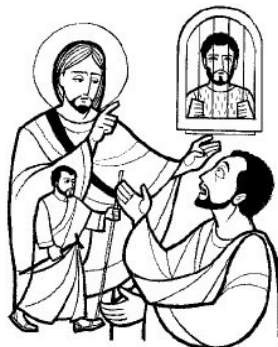
I have often asked the house wolf about Mass when he comes home and sprawls in the kitchen, and while he does not go into detail, being a shy and reserved being, I often wonder what his extraordinary senses tell him of the mystery into which the love of his life disappears for 40 minutes at a time twice a week. The bells, the songs, the occasional thrill of incense; the shuffle of feet toward the altar, the creak of kneelers, the chorus of prayers; the tidal rise and fall of call and response, the burst of conversations after the Mass is ended and the congregation is going in peace.

Does he feel the mysterious electricity of the Mass? Does he enjoy the pace and rhythm and cadence of it from his hidden nook? Does he feel something like I do during Mass, when I savour the Host on my tongue and ponder the miracle of Christ in us, when finally the love of his life emerges from the Mass to release him from the railing? Is her wondrous arrival back in his life a sort of quiet miracle every time it happens? Isn't that exactly what the Mass is about?

And home they go, past the drifting herons and the arrowing cormorants, past the old movie theatre made of wood and dreams, past the pubs and coffee shops, back up our hill under the oak and chestnut trees, into the kitchen where I have made coffee and chatted quietly with the Madonna about many things; and the house wolf sprawls and lolls and grins his lopsided grin, and I ask him about Mass, and he does not say anything, because some things, many things, are bigger than words, deeper than words, beyond the reach of words; and the Mass is one of these.

Brian Doyle is the editor of Portland Magazine at the University of Portland, a longtime contributor to Eureka Street, and the author of the essay collection Grace Notes.

Our Parish Vision
“Our Parish is a Eucharistic Community
united by our faith in Jesus Christ.
We work together in the power of the Holy
Spirit to spread the good news of God’s
Kingdom.”



Our Parish Schools

Sacred Heart Primary School
Principal: Des Lowry 5023 1204

St Paul’s Primary School
Principal: Vince Muscatello 5023 4567

St Joseph’s Secondary College
Principal: Marg Blythman 5018 8000

10th & 11th December, 2016			17th & 18th December, 2016		
THIS WEEK’S READINGS			NEXT WEEK’S READINGS		
First Reading: Isa 35:1-6, 10 Resp Psalm: Ps 145:6-10. R. cf. Isa 35:4 Response: Lord, come and save us. Second Reading: James 5:7-10 Gospel: Mt 11:2-11			First Reading: Isa 7:10-14 Resp Psalm: Ps 23:1-6. R. cf. vv. 7. 10 Response: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. Second Reading: Rom 1:1-7 Gospel: Mt 1:18-24		
EUCCHARIST MINISTERS			EUCCHARIST MINISTERS		
SATURDAY	SUNDAY		SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
6PM	9AM	5PM	6PM	9AM	5PM
6 Ministers required	7 Ministers required	6 Ministers required	6 Ministers required	7 Ministers required	6 Ministers required
Christine Carmichael	Susan Lewis	Judy Hall	Anne-Maree Greville	Kapeli Mapapalangi	Greg Johnston
Ellen Frauenfelder	Minda Wright	Myrna Rodi	Taiana Fatai	Sonia Opie	Naomi Kennedy
Jacinda Deacon	Rose Op’t Hoog	Maree Irvin	Margaret McDonald	Philip Opie	Mario Zema
Katy Quinlan	Rini Op’t Hoog	Sue Hermans	Trish McNamara	Catherine McErvale	Josie Zema
Irene Morello	Cora Howell	Danielle Mazzini	Morris Henderson	Elvira Mazza	Trish Cirillo
Volunteer Please	Narie Lewis	Volunteer Please	Anita Naray	Jill Joslyn	Volunteer Please
	Renata Byra			Lisa Cirillo	
MUSIC			MUSIC		
Filipino Group	M Guthrie	M Guthrie	Youth Group	Tongan Choir	M Sullivan
A Armsden	All Welcome	All welcome	K Mafi	M Guthrie	J Macri
					J Ljubic
ALTAR SERVERS			ALTAR SERVEN RS		
Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer
OFFERTORY PROCESSION			OFFERTORY PROCESSION		
2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required
Baptism	Baptism			Baptism	
READERS			READERS		
Trish McNamara	Rose Op’t Hoog	Barb Kelly	Christine Carmichael	Maureen Speed	Peter Hammond
COUNTING TEAM 9			COUNTING TEAM 10		
GEORGE DOLENCE 5023 7993			BRIAN GROGAN 5021 2099		
IRYMPLE - SUNDAY - 8.30AM			IRYMPLE - SUNDAY - 8.30AM		
READER	EUCCHARIST MINISTER		READER	EUCCHARIST MINISTER	
G McCracken	D Knight		M Hill	W Smith	